

CLAIMS

What is claimed:

1. An arrangement for moving and filling multiple storage containers with pressurized contents, the arrangement including:

a movable rack for receiving the multiple containers and including ground-engaging movable members for permitting the rack and the multiple containers
5 received thereon to be moved; and

a fixed filling station having a plurality of dispensing devices, each engagable with a storage container to provide the pressurized contents to the container;

wherein the rack and the filling station are arranged such that the rack is movable into proximity with the filling station and the rack is movable away from the
10 filling station, and the dispensing devices are arranged within the filling station such that each container is in proximity to a respective dispensing device when the rack and the filling station are in proximity.

2. An arrangement as set forth in claim 1, wherein the arrangement of the rack and the filling station includes parts on the rack and the filling station that mate when the rack and the filling station are in proximity.

3. An arrangement as set forth in claim 1, wherein the rack includes locations for receiving the containers such that the containers need not be adjusted or removed from the rack while the rack is moved into proximity with the filling station, the containers receive the pressurized contents, or the rack is moved out of proximity
5 with the filling station.

4. An arrangement as set forth in claim 1, wherein the rack is movable via operation of the ground engaging movable members out of proximity with the filling station to a location relatively distant from the filling station such that a second movable rack may be moved into proximity with the filling station.

5. A method for moving and filling multiple storage containers with pressurized contents, the method including:

placing the multiple containers onto a movable rack;

moving the rack and the containers thereon into proximity of a fixed filling station via operation of ground-engaging movable members of the rack;

engaging each of the containers to a respective dispensing device of a plurality of the dispensing devices to provide the pressurized contents to the containers;

disengaging the containers from the respective dispensing devices; and

moving the rack away from the filling station with the containers remaining on the rack.

6. A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the step of moving the rack into proximity of the filling station includes mating parts on the rack and the filling station.

7. A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein the rack includes locations for receiving the containers such that the containers need not be adjusted or removed from the rack during the steps of moving the rack and the containers thereon, engaging each of the containers to respective dispensing devices, disengaging the containers from the respective dispensing devices, and moving the rack away from the filling station with the containers.

8. A method as set forth in claim 1, wherein step of moving the rack away from the filling station with the containers includes moving the rack out of proximity with the filling station to a location relatively distant from the filling station such that a second movable rack may be moved into proximity with the filling station.

9. An arrangement for moving and filling multiple storage containers of different types with pressurized contents, the arrangement including:

a first holding device for receiving a first type group of the multiple containers and movable to permit the first holding device and the containers received thereon to be moved;

a second holding device for receiving a second type group of the multiple containers and movable to permit the second holding device and the containers received thereon to be moved; and

a fixed filling station having a plurality of dispensing devices, each engagable with a storage container to provide the pressurized contents to the container;

wherein the first and second holding devices and the filling station are arranged such that each of the first and second holding devices is movable into proximity with the filling station and movable away from the filling station, and the first holding device includes ground-engaging movable members for permitting the first holding device and the multiple containers received thereon to be moved.

10. An arrangement as set forth in claim 9, wherein the second holding device includes a pallet structure.

11. An arrangement as set forth in claim 9, wherein the first holding device includes a rack for receiving the first group of the multiple containers.

12. An arrangement as set forth in claim 9, wherein the first holding device is configured to hold the first group of the multiple containers on a rack, and the second holding device is configured to hold the second group of the multiple containers on a pallet.

13. An arrangement as set forth in claim 9, wherein the first holding device and the filling station include parts that mate when the first holding device and the filling station are in proximity.

14. A method for moving and filling multiple storage containers with pressurized contents, the method including:

placing a first group of the multiple containers onto a first holding device;
moving the first holding device and the containers thereon into proximity of a
5 fixed filling station;
engaging each of the containers on the first holding device to a respective
dispensing device of a plurality of the dispensing devices to provide the pressurized
contents to the containers;
disengaging the containers from the respective dispensing devices; and
10 moving the first holding device from the filling station with the containers on the
first holding device remaining on the first holding device;
placing a second group of the multiple containers onto a second holding
device;
moving the second holding device and the containers thereon into proximity of
15 a fixed filling station;
engaging each of the containers on the second holding device to a respective
dispensing device of a plurality of the dispensing devices to provide the pressurized
contents to the containers;
disengaging the containers from the respective dispensing devices; and
20 moving the second holding device from the filling station with the containers on
the second holding device remaining on the second holding device;
wherein the steps of moving the first holding device into proximity of the filling
station and moving the first holding device from the filling station is via ground-
engaging movable members on the first holding device.

15. A method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the step of placing the
second group of the multiple containers onto the second holding device includes
placing the containers on a pallet structure of the second holding device.

16. A method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the step of placing the first
group of the multiple containers onto the first holding device includes placing the
containers on a rack structure of the first holding device.

17. A method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the step of placing the first group of the multiple containers onto the first holding device includes placing the containers on a rack structure of the first holding device, and the step of placing the second group of the multiple containers onto the second holding device includes placing the containers on a pallet structure of the second holding device.

18. A method as set forth in claim 14, wherein the step of moving the first holding device and the containers thereon into proximity of a fixed filling station includes mating parts of the first holding device and the filling station.